

We claim:

We claim:

1. A method for detecting pregnancy in a woman comprising:

contacting a biological sample of a woman with at least two antibodies that specifically bind different epitopes of ITA, at least one of the two antibodies being coupled to a label effective to produce a chemiluminescent signal; and

detecting a chemiluminescent signal produced by the label, wherein the presence of a detectable signal indicates pregnancy in the woman.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a urine sample.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the label is an acridinium ester.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two antibodies are monoclonal antibodies designated B152 and B207.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising contacting the biological sample with an antibody that specifically binds hCG, or a fragment thereof.

6. A method for detecting pregnancy in a woman comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a biological sample of the woman with a capture antibody designated B152;

b) contacting the biological sample with a detection antibody designated B207, the detection antibody being coupled to a label that is effective to produce a chemiluminescent signal; and

c) detecting a signal produced by the label, wherein the presence of a detectable signal indicates pregnancy in the woman.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the biological sample is obtained within about seven days after ovulation.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the biological sample is obtained within about five days after ovulation.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein an embryo was implanted into the woman by in vitro fertilization.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the biological sample is obtained within about four days after in vitro fertilization.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the biological sample is urine.

12. The method of claim 6, wherein the biological sample is serum.

13. The method of claim 6, farther comprising screening the biological sample for at least one additional pregnancy marker.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one additional marker is hCG.

15. The method of claim 6, wherein the method is automated.

16. A method for detecting pregnancy in a woman comprising:

contacting a biological sample of a woman with at least two capture antibodies that specifically bind different epitopes of ITA, and at least one detection antibody that binds an epitope of ITA different from the epitopes bound by the capture antibodies, the

detection antibody being coupled to a label that produces a detectable signal in one assay;
and

detecting a signal produced by the label, wherein a detectable signal indicates pregnancy in the woman.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the at least two capture antibodies are designated B152 and clone 827.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the at least two capture antibodies are designated B152 and clone 820.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one detection antibody is designated B207.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the assay is a chemiluminescent assay.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the biological sample is a urine sample.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the label is an acridinium ester.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein the biological sample is obtained within about seven days after ovulation.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein the biological sample is obtained within about four days after in vitro fertilization.

25. The method of claim 16, wherein the assay is automated.

26. A method for detecting pregnancy in a woman comprising:

contacting a biological sample of a the woman with at least two capture antibodies that specifically bind different epitopes of ITA and hCG, and at least one detection antibody that binds an epitope of the ITA and hCG different from the epitopes bound by the capture antibodies, the at least one detection antibody being coupled to a label that is effective to produce a detectable signal in one assay; and

detecting a signal produced by the label, wherein the presence of a detectable signal indicates pregnancy in the woman.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least two capture antibodies are designated B152 and clone 827.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least two capture antibodies are designated B152 and clone 820.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one detection antibody is designated B207.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein the assay is a chemiluminescent assay.

31. The method of claim 26, wherein the biological sample is a urine sample.

32. The method of claim 26, wherein the label is an acridinium ester.

33. The method of claim 26, wherein the biological sample is obtained within about seven days after ovulation.

34. The method of claim 26, wherein the biological sample is obtained within about four days after in vitro fertilization.

35. The method of claim 26, wherein the assay is automated.

36. A method for detecting pregnancy in a woman comprising:

contacting a biological sample of a woman with at least two capture antibodies that specifically bind different epitopes of ITA and hCG, one of the capture antibodies being designated B152 and another capture antibody being designated clone 827, and at least one detection antibody, designated B207, that binds an epitope of the ITA and hCG different from the epitopes bound by the capture antibodies, the at least one detection antibody being coupled to a label effective to produce a detectable signal, in one assay;
and

detecting a signal produced by the label, wherein a presence of a detectable signal indicates pregnancy in the woman.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the assay is an automated chemiluminescent assay.